

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
Apiary Program Update
Winter 2020



STATE OF THE STATE:

UPDATE ON HONEY BEE HEALTH IN THE COMMONWEALTH


Tuesdays, Dec 1st, 8th & 15th 2020


5:30pm-7:30pm ET



Join the MDAR Apiary Program Team to hear the following updates:



 **Tues, Dec 1st:** *What is Wrong with My Hive? & 2019-20 BEE Aware Honey Bee Survey Results* - Ken Warchol/Kim Skyrn

 **Tues, Dec 8th:** *2020 Honey Bee Inspection Data and Aerial Mosquito Spray Monitoring* - Paul Tessier/Kim Skyrn

 **Tues, Dec 15th:** *UMass Honey Bee Extension and 2020 State Apiary Management* - Hannah Whitehead/Ori Ben-Shir/Paul Tessier

Zoom Meeting ID: 929 0834 2266; Password: 087408

<https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92908342266?pwd=Y0o4YkxMS3FNSkJDN0U5UWhFbjJQQT09>

One tap mobile: +16468769923,,92908342266#

This event will not be recorded so Bee There or Bee Square!

Zoom Link: <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92908342266?pwd=Y0o4YkxMS3FNSkJDN0U5UWhFbjJQQT09>

Meeting ID: 929 0834 2266

Passcode: 087408

One Tap Mobile: +16468769923,,92908342266# US (New York)

Apiary Regulation Hearing: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 10:00 AM–12:00 PM



Search Mass.gov

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<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mdar-proposed-amendments-to-regulations>

PART OF Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Proposed Amendments to Regulations

OFFERED BY Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

MDAR - Proposed Amendments to Regulations

The following is a list of notices for proposed Department of Agricultural Resources Regulations.

All persons interested in submitting comments on the proposed regulations may do so in writing by the date indicated in the notice. Refer to the full notice for the mailing address for submitting comments. MDAR is not required to respond to comments; however, all comments received by the date indicated in the notice will be reviewed and considered.

The date published is the date the notice appeared in the newspaper and marks the beginning of the 21-day public-comment period, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 3.

Click on a link to view the corresponding notice and proposed red-line of the regulation.



RELATED

[MDAR - Regulations +](#)

[MDAR - Statutes +](#)

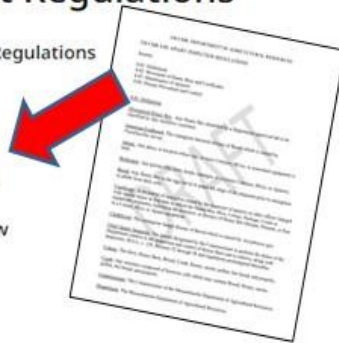
Notices and Draft Regulations

330 CMR 8.00: Apiary Inspection Regulations

- [Notice of Public Hearing](#)
- [330 CMR 8.00 - Clean \(draft\)](#)
- [330 CMR 8.00 - Clean \(redline\)](#)

Neonic Scientific Literature Review

- [Notice of Public Hearing](#)



Join Zoom Meeting

MeetingID: 839 9730 1250

Passcode: 8raZXQ

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83997301250?pwd=dE8zdDFMZHhJQ0ZkdWpyQkxpR0c2QT09>

Phone Info MeetingID: 839 9730 1250

Passcode: 540546

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kAheEhTXi>

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83997301250?pwd=dE8zdDFMZHhJQ0ZkdWpyQkxpR0c2QT09>

Meeting ID: 839 9730 1250

Passcode: 8raZXQ

One Tap Mobile:

+16465588656,,83997301250#,,,,,0#,,540546# US (New York)

Update Your Phone Now! NEW Apiary Program Message Line Phone Number: 508-281-6784

Get to Zoomin' Virtually in 2021 with the New England Honey Bee Update

Due to the popularity and interest from the 1,279 attendees at the 8 virtual meetings filled with a total of 16 hours of education, community and dialogue offered in 2020, we are planning to continue these Zoom sessions with regional apiary inspectors in 2021!

To receive updates about these events and others, join the Apiary Program mailing list of currently 504 subscribers by submitting your email address using the link: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/join-the-apiary-program-mailing-list>.

Neonicotinoid Literature Review Hearing: Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:00 AM–12:00 PM



Search Mass.gov

SEARCH

<https://www.mass.gov/event/canceled-neonics-scientific-literature-review-public-hearing-2020-03-13t140000-0400-2020-03>

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MeetingID: 835 5660 5227

Passcode: 3Am52T

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83556605227?pwd=bmxiNUhSR0NkQVg3UGxDQ0RDRUIOZz09>

Phone Info MeetingID: 835 5660 5227

Passcode: 106861

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83556605227?pwd=bmxiNUhSR0NkQVg3UGxDQ0RDRUIOZz09>

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83556605227?pwd=bmxiNUhSR0NkQVg3UGxDQ0RDRUIOZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 5660 5227

Passcode: 3Am52T

One Tap Mobile:

+16465588656,,83556605227#,,,,,0#,,106861# US (New York)

Voluntarily Register Your Apiary Now!

A total of 601 beekeepers have voluntarily registered their apiaries with MDAR since April, 2017 by using the new online form: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/apiary-and-colony-registration-form>. Please consider taking a quick second to register your apiary today so that we can best communicate with beekeepers and investigate honey bee health issues in your area.

Update Your Phone Now! NEW Apiary Program Message Line Phone Number: 508-281-6784

Registered Pesticides for Honey Bee Hives

The following is a list of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) registered pesticide products labeled for use in honey bee hives for management of pests and parasites. These product registrations are currently active and will expire on 6/30/2021. Stay up to date on current product registrations and label changes by visiting the *Massachusetts Pesticide Product Registration Information* website: <http://www.kellysolutions.com/MA/pesticideindex.htm>.

These general use products can be applied to individual beekeeper owned hives. If applying to hives other than those owned by the beekeeper, then a pesticide license is required. Visit the following pesticide regulations to learn about the pesticide applicator license: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/10/30/333cmr10.pdf>.

Api-Bioxal	oxalic acid dehydrate	91266-1-73291	Varroa mite
Apiguard	thymol	79671-1	Varroa mite
Api Life Var	menthol, eucalyptus oil, thymol	73291-1	Varroa mite
Apistan	fluvalinate	2724-406 & 2724-406-79671	Varroa mite
Apivar	amitraz	87243-1	Varroa mite
CheckMite Plus	coumaphos	11556-138 & 11556-138-61671	Varroa mite, Small hive beetle
Formic Pro	formic acid	75710-3	Varroa mite
HopGuard II	potassium salts of hop beta acids	83623-2	Varroa mite
HopGuard III	potassium salts of hop beta acids	82623-2	Varroa mite
Mite Away Quick Strips	formic acid	75710-2	Varroa mite
B402 Certan	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis aizawai</i>	94413-1	Greater wax moth

Varroa Mite Management

SPRING AND SUMMER

Re-Queen
Select mite resistant stock when available

Brood Interruption
Split hive or allow to swarm (capture swarm!)

Drone Brood Trapping/Removal
Insert foundation-less or drone frame

Screened Bottom Board
Check mite drop for effectiveness

CHEMICAL TYPES:

Synthetic
PROS: Targeted toxicity
CONS: Last longer in the environment

Organic
PROS: Targeted toxicity
CONS: Last longer in the environment

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE):

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Varroa mites

IPM is a decades-old farm strategy for mitigating pests while minimizing chemical use. Experts now recommend IPM for Varroa. Rather than relying on a "silver bullet", good IPM incorporates multiple strategies throughout the season, based on pest levels and pest biology.

IPM PRINCIPLES:

- KNOW YOUR PEST
- PREVENT pest build up using non-chemical practices
- SAMPLE REGULARLY to track pest population levels
- INTERVENE with pesticides when populations reach damaging thresholds (see products for precise pest release)

PESTS EXCEED THRESHOLDS (>3 MITES/SAMPLE!)

What's Your Varroa Mite Count? Find Out With a FREE Alcohol Wash Jar!

MDAR **USDA** **Northeast IPM Center**

Name	Active Ingredient [mode of action]	Season [temp]	Honey super safe?	Wait time	Application	Notes
Apivar®	amitraz [contact]	Pop. Increase Pop. Decrease [Not Temp Dependent]	NO	wait 1 month to add honey supers	MAQS: 1-3 weeks Formic Pro: 2-3 weeks	Recommended (but not required)
ApiGuard®	thymol [fumigant]	Pop. Increase Pop. Decrease [60-105° F]	YES	wait 1 month to add honey supers	MAQS: 1-3 weeks Formic Pro: 2-3 weeks	Recommended (but not required)
Api Life Var®	thymol, menthol, eucalyptus oil [fumigant]	Pop. Increase Pop. Decrease [64-95° F]	YES	wait 1 month to add honey supers	MAQS: 1-3 weeks Formic Pro: 2-3 weeks	Recommended (but not required)
MAQS®, Formic Pro®	formic acid [fumigant]	***Kills mites in brood Pop. Peak Pop. Increase Pop. Decrease [50-55° F]	YES	wait 1 month to add honey supers	MAQS: 1-3 weeks Formic Pro: 2-3 weeks	Recommended (but not required)
Oxalic Acid, Api-Bioxal®	oxalic acid dehydrate [contact, fumigant]	Pop. Increase Pop. Decrease [Not Temp Dependent] Dormant	NO	Immediate (but may need to repeat) wait 2 weeks to add honey supers	POWDER, 3 options: Spray Dribble Fumigation (liquid) (liquid) (vapor)	Recommended (but not required)
HopGuard II/III®		Pop. Peak Pop. Pop. Pop. [Not Temp Dependent]	YES	1 month	CARDBOARD STRIP	Recommended (but not required)

Check It Out!

<https://www.northeastipm.org/ipm-in-action/publications/varroa-mite-ipm-brochure/>